

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

HOFU Disease

5722. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a patient of HOFU a very rare blood related total disease, has been found in Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the government propose to initiate action to check the spread of this total disease ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hofu is a mildly unstable haemoglobin variant. This is a rare haemoglobin disorder and is not a fatal disease. Subjects with this abnormal haemoglobin generally remain healthy and no preventive steps have been advised by experts.

[Translation]

Training to Pilots

5723. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on providing training to an aircraft pilot by the Air Force;

(b) the number of pilots in the Air Force as on date and the extent to which it is less than the prescribed number;

(c) the number of the pilots killed in different aircrashes during the last three years and the loss suffered by the nation as a result thereof;

(d) whether the payment of compensation has been made to the family members of each pilot killed in the aircrashes; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The training cost per pilot for each of the sub-streams is as given below :-

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|------------------|------------------|
| (i) Fighter | : Rs. 5.2 crores |
| (ii) Transport | : Rs. 1.7 crores |
| (iii) Helicopter | : Rs. 1.0 crores |

(b) Against an authorised establishment of 3,347 pilots, the actual strength as on 30th April 1997 is 2,884.

(c) The number of pilots killed in the last 3 years is 26. Provisional loss to the IAF is Rs. 170.23 crores.

(d) and (e) Barring for two pilots killed in air accident on 24.12.1996, death benefits have been sanctioned to the next of kins of all the pilots. In the case of these two pilots the documents from the next of kin are awaited.

[English]

AWHO

5724. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether army officers on deputation to any organisation relating to the welfare of ex-servicemen are paid by the ministry;

(b) the name of the agency which deals with acts of misconduct or irregularities if any, by such officials;

(c) whether government have received complaints regarding corruption in the Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO); and

(d) if so, action taken against persons found responsible for it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) There is no Army Officer on deputation with Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) and Army Group Insurance Fund (AGIF). Some Officers are however, on Extra Regimental employment with these organisations which deal with welfare of Army as well as retired personnel. These officers are paid by the respective organisations through the procedure of book debit and continue to be under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence in disciplinary and vigilance matters.

AWHO is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act. A complaint against AWHO alleging use of substandard material in the construction of dwelling units and over costing of the dwelling units constructed by it was considered by the State Consumer Forum and dismissed.

Plantation on National Highways from Rourkela to Sambalpur

5725. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact

that hundreds of trees on both the sides of National Highway from Rourkela to Sambalpur were cut down as part of the development work of the National Highways;

(b) if so, the number of the trees cut down and the amount received out of the sale of such trees; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to plant new trees on both sides of the National Highways, the name of the organisation entrusted with plantation programme and the time Schedule fixed for such plantation ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected from the State Government.

[Translation]

Implementation of Wasteland Projects

5726. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had organised a conference of the representatives of states in the last months to consider the implementation of wasteland projects;

(b) if so, whether the implementation of projects were reviewed in that conference;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of the projects satisfactorily in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A meeting was convened by the Department of Wastelands Development to review the various Plan schemes of the Department and also to get a feedback from the States in regard to the difficulties being faced by them at the field level in implementation of the wastelands development projects and as to how to overcome these difficulties. State Secretaries have been asked to ensure implementation of the projects with active participation of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and local people in accordance with the provisions contained in the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development. Close monitoring and inspection of the projects have also been emphasised.

[English]

Expenditure on National Highways in Maharashtra

5727. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred on widening of National Highways and strengthening of the existing double lane carriageway in Maharashtra during the last two years; and

(b) the details of the proposals proposed to be executed during the current year and the expenditure proposed to be incurred in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The funds allocated for National Highway (Original) works including widening/ strengthening in the Maharashtra State is as under :

1995-96	:	Rs. 28.99 crores
1996-97	:	Rs. 19.70 crores

(b) Works worth Rs. 68.00 crores are proposed to be taken up during 1997-98 in Maharashtra State. However, it is too early to indicate the expenditure to be incurred for these works at this stage.

Inter-State Water Dispute

5728. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of Inter-State Council to settle Inter-State water dispute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No Inter-State water dispute has been referred to the Inter-State Council Secretariat so far.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Budget Allocation for Irrigation

5729. SHRI NIHAR CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocated for irrigation during the First Five Year Plan and the area of irrigable land;